University of Georgia Cooperative Extension is working hard for its constituents. The following are examples of Extension’s impact in the county over the past year.

**4-H YOUTH DEVELOPMENT**

Taylor County 4-H’er Christian Albritton started his own community-service project at Taylor County Health Care Nursing Home in Butler, Georgia. Christian worked with the staff at the nursing home to determine where to place a raised-bed garden for the benefit of the residents and their families.

The wood, plants and soil were donated by local merchants in the county. With some help from County Extension Agent Jeff Cook and 4-H Leader Sherry Waller, the bed was constructed in time for National Nursing Home Week in May 2018. Christian continues to look after the bed and held Garden Club at the nursing home several times to include the residents. Residents give him advice on caring for certain plants and recommend what they would like to see in the bed.

This community-service project has developed a bond with the nursing home and more 4-H’ers have started volunteering at the nursing home. Other community-service projects include the annual rabies clinic, cookies for cops, holiday decorating and Christmas-tree lighting.

**AGRICULTURE AND NATURAL RESOURCES**

Peaches are a big business in middle Georgia, but cotton is our No. 1 agronomic crop. Every season, county agents and growers across south Georgia participate in on-farm cotton variety trials. These trials are a great way to show how certain cotton varieties perform under many different environmental conditions and under differing management. The varieties are some of the best that we recommend for Georgia, however there are still differences in how these varieties yield.

This season we held a 27-acre variety trial just south of Reynolds, Georgia. County agents from surrounding counties came to assist with planting in late April. The rain stopped after that, so we had to replant in mid-May. After our early season issues, we were blessed with nearly ideal growing conditions for the remainder of the season. The trial was replicated and we harvested on November 28. The estimated cotton lint yields on this dryland variety trial ranged from around 800 pounds per acre to just over 1000 pounds per acre.

The work that our specialists and county agents do is very valuable to our growers and helps keep them profitable from year to year. This work also shows that with a great farmer, great county agent and a whole lot of rain, you can make a good crop of cotton even without irrigation.

In rural communities, UGA Extension is seen as a valuable source of information and services. Whether our staff is connecting citizens to other organizations or helping them with personal matters, we serve the communities that we are a part of.

With the increase in paperwork required to obtain licenses and Georgia Agriculture Tax Exemption (GATE) cards with the Georgia Department of Agriculture, our staff has been crucial in ensuring that our farmers, landowners and citizens get the help they need to stay current. Many of our older farmers and landowners do not have access to a computer, nor do they really understand how to navigate the online world. Our staff goes above and beyond to help these folks both online and with the submission of needed documentation.

We stay up-to-date on what is required by the Georgia Department of Agriculture and other organizations our clients work with on a daily basis. When you can’t find the answer, call your county Extension office.

ugaextension.org/taylor
Agriculture & Natural Resources
Goods and services related to Georgia’s agriculture and natural resources affect each of the state’s communities every day. Agriculture is Georgia’s largest industry, and its direct and indirect economic impact totals $73.7 billion. More than 392,400 Georgia jobs are directly involved in commodity or food- and fiber-related industries.

UGA Extension faculty and staff play a key role in the success of this industry by sharing university-based research for Georgians to use on the farm and at home. Recommendations in areas including soil fertility, pest management, plant and crop varieties, water quality, and herd health and management focus on maximizing production and profits while minimizing environmental impacts.

Agriculture and Natural Resources Extension agents also provide homeowners and communities with information on lawn care, landscaping, gardening and water conservation through a variety of workshops. Some agents also work with schools on projects like community gardens and farm-to-school programs. Georgia Master Gardener Extension Volunteers give thousands of hours of service to their communities by answering questions in county offices and creating educational opportunities.

4-H Youth Development
As the youth development program of UGA Extension, 4-H is also part of a national network. Georgia 4-H reaches more than 170,000 fourth- through 12th-grade students across the state and helps students develop the knowledge, life skills and attitudes that will enable them to become self-directing, productive and contributing members of society. This mission is fulfilled through hands-on learning experiences in agricultural and environmental awareness, leadership, communication skills, citizenship, energy conservation, health, and food and nutrition.

Georgia 4-H’ers are well-known for sharing their knowledge and volunteering throughout their communities. At the school and county levels, students participate in club meetings organized by 4-H Youth Development Extension agents. At the state level, students participate in competitions, summer camps and conferences. Some 4-H competitions and events are also offered at the regional and national levels.

Research indicates that, as a result of participating in 4-H, members are more engaged in their academic studies, less likely to be involved in risky behavior, and more likely to graduate from high school and continue their education.

Family & Consumer Sciences
Family and Consumer Sciences Extension specialists, agents and staff assist in addressing real-life issues faced by Georgians of all ages. They provide programs and the latest information on obesity, chronic disease, food and financial insecurity, family stresses, unhealthy housing, food safety and preservation, nutrition and more.

To help promote the positive development and safety of preschool, school-aged and adolescent youth, UGA Extension offers resources for parents, caregivers and others. Extension professionals in this program area lead consumer economics trainings and programs such as ServSafe®, Relationship Smarts, and PRIDE, a parent and teen driving education course.

Extension also promotes healthy lifestyles through statewide programs. Walk Georgia is a virtual, fitness-tracking resource that encourages physical fitness and healthy lifestyles to better the lives of Georgians. Other health programs managed by UGA include the Expanded Food and Nutrition Education Program (EFNEP) and Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program Education (SNAP-Ed). These classes teach families how to stretch their food dollars, eat healthier meals and snacks, and reduce the risk of foodborne illnesses.